

## Tax Debate

This exercise will provide a short, memorable experience for kids to help them grasp the concepts of tax structures. Here are some important tips to consider while you plan and teach this lesson:

--Prepare the arrangement of the classroom so the voters have a complete view of all members on the two sides of the debate.

--Communicate clear behavior and learning expectations before the debate begins.

--Bring authenticity to the experience by having the students assume the given role in a professional manner complete with any materials.

--Anticipate student reactions and recognize teachable moments as they occur.

--Allow time for the students to express their understandings and feelings immediately after the debate.

Questions/ Suggestions for the flow of the debate:

1. Please describe in your own words your position on changing the current tax structure.
2. How will changing the tax structure have a positive impact on our economy?
3. How will your opponent's idea have a negative impact on the economy?
4. What are some ways that the roles of the government will change if your tax proposal gets the majority of the votes?
5. How will changing our current tax structure change the effectiveness of the government?
6. How will changing the current tax structure change the finances of a family?
7. How might changing this tax structure influence the rights and responsibilities of the citizens of the country?
8. How could changing the current tax structure affect global collaboration?

Voter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

<p>What are the positive impacts of increasing taxes in our country?</p>	<p>What are the positive impacts of eliminating taxes in our country?</p>
<p>What are the negative impacts of increasing taxes in our community?</p>	<p>What are the negative impacts of eliminating taxes in our country?</p>

### Group One: We Want to Increase Taxes!

The current government is struggling. The schools are cutting their budgets, fire departments and police departments are struggling to pay salaries, and we are not able to take care of our elderly and people with disabilities. The only way to help support these services is to raise taxes. With your team, brainstorm reasons why raising taxes will help our government and improve our economy.

## Group Two: We Want to Eliminate Taxes!

Families are struggling to pay their bills right now. Many cannot afford the cost of food, transportation, health care, and the cost of higher education. Eliminating taxes will allow families to keep the entire salary they are earning instead of giving 30% to the government. The only way to help families in need is to eliminate taxes. With your team, brainstorm reasons why eliminating taxes will help our government and improve our economy.